

## REPORT FROM CHIEF OF STAFF, KOREAN ARMY, 1942

Strictly Confidential

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Subject: Reactions Among the general public following internment of British prisoners of war.

From: Chief of Staff of the Korean Army, IBARA, Junjiro - 13 August 1942.

To: Vice-Minister of War, KIMURA, Hyotaro.

Subject matter submitted as per separate sheets.

Submitted to: Army General Staff Headquarters and the War Ministry (Two copies respectively)

Reactions Among the General Public Following Internment of British Prisoners of War

## 1. The General View

The arrival of 998 prisoners captured in Malaya had so great an effect upon the people in general, especially upon the Koreans, that about 120,000 Koreans and 57,000 Japanese by-standers lined the roads of Fusan, Seoul and Jinsen to see the prisoners of war being transported.

Many of them sneered at the disgraceful behavior and utter indifference of the British displayed before their very eyes by the prisoners and thought it quite natural that an army so lacking in patriotism should be defeated by the Imperial Army, and realized afresh the victory gained by the Imperial Army. They also expressed their feeling that any ideas of admiration for the British and Americans must be thoroughly swept away. Many of them confessed their happiness of being subjects of the Empire and expressed their resolve to carry through the Greater East Asia War.

Worthy of special mention is the fact that the Koreans clearly recognized the fact that they are directly participating in the Greater East Asia War when they saw the Korean guards. As a whole, it seems that the idea was very successful in driving all admiration for the British and Americans out of their minds and in driving into them an understanding of the situation.

The most conspicuous part of their speech and actions were as follows, and, as the effect of propaganda gradually tells upon them when the prisoners are put to labor, we may expect much greater results which will contribute greatly toward ruling Korea.

NOTE: For the time being reports, etc. concerning the prisoners of war will not be permitted for publication in newspapers in accordance with the policies of the central authorities.

2. Speech and Actions of the By-standers which were most conspicuous:

(1) The Koreans:

- a. "When I saw young Korean soldiers, members of the Imperial Army, guarding the prisoners, I shed tears of joy. I was so moved by the sight that I almost felt like shouting to those who were not aware of the fact: 'Look! Peninsula Youths are guarding the British prisoners!'"
- b. "Although those who are concerned with Christianity have not been able to drive out completely their admiration for foreign ideas due to the fact that their leaders have been British or Americans, yet when they saw the prisoners they felt pride in being Japanese and were strongly moved by the idea that they must establish a Japanese Christianity"
- c. "We must not be defeated; even if we have to live on water. When I saw the prisoners, I felt happiness and pride in being a Japanese"
- d. "It seems like a dream to see the British and Americans, who used to make light of us and thought us an inferior people, as prisoners. Koreans, too, have felt pride in being Japanese. Their feelings have completely changed."

- e. "It is easy to see that they lack patriotism just by watching them whistling so indifferently. They are absolutely slovenly."
- f. "When we look at their frail and unsteady appearance, it is no wonder that they lost to the Japanese forces."
- g. "When I saw the prisoners right in front of my eyes, I felt that we must win the war. Instead of sneering at them, we should be making more effort ourselves."
- h. "I used hear about and see the victories gained by the Imperial Forces through the newspapers and newsreels, but with some feeling of doubt. When I saw the prisoners I realized that the reports were not false."
- i. "I wish every Korean were given the opportunity to see the prisoners so that can really feel the happiness of being a Japanese"
- j. "The war is being prolonged on their account. They should be worked to death."
- k. "Thanks to our soldiers we are able to lead life so leisurely compared to the wretched state of the prisoners."

(2) The Japanese:

- a. "Their spiritual state is pitiful. They feel no shame in being exposed to public show. Nothing is more pitiful to see than a people with no sense of shame"
- b. "When we observe the disgraceful behavior of the prisoners we feel keenly the happiness of being a Japanese and also that we must win the war. We should not complain of such trifles as shortage of goods."
- c. "We can still find something arrogant in their attitude. We must treat them with the firmness of a victorious nation."
- d. "Some of the Koreans entertained misgivings regarding the true might as well as the victories of our Empire, but they can have no such doubts now after they have seen the defeated prisoners."

- e. "We can never afford to be defeated. We must fight to victory. We shall fight to the last"

(3) The Chinese:

- a. "When I actually saw the true might of Japan, my confidence in her became greater. Thanks to Japan we are able to get along comfortably and engage in our business peacefully."
- b. "The miserable figures of the prisoners themselves symbolize the fall of Britain. We Chinese should place further confidence in Japan and work harder to set up a new East Asia."

(4) The French:

- a. "It makes us feel ashamed to see the prisoners being sent to Korea, for they are westerners, the same as us. Japan's might is truly astonishing."
- b. "If there are any among them from the British Isles, I believe they must be ashamed of themselves. I feel sorry for them."

(5) The Germans:

- a. "We have been returning inhumanity for British and American inhumanity thus far. We hope you will be cruel to them."

(6) The White Russians:

- a. "They whistle and don't seem to care a bit. It seems that being a prisoner of war is no disgrace to them. The clothes that they wear are ragged and not uniform and their physique is poor. That is why they are losing the war."

3. The Speech and Actions of the Prisoners.

It looks as though they have all resigned themselves to fate. They are as a whole submissive. They observe the rules and regulations well and are grateful for the fair treatment they are receiving in the hands of the Japanese Army. Some of them are astonished at the superiority of the Japanese forces.



Immediately after arrival, we succeeded in making them all take oath. But for all that, we can still see arrogance in their attitude and some of them openly say that final victory remains with Britain. Some of them make a show of themselves by claiming that being a prisoner is an honor which a subject can do to his fatherland. All of them believe that the United States will help them gain final victory. Unaware of the great victories of the Imperial Forces, they blindly believe in the material power of the United States and from the bottom of their hearts they are waiting for the victory of their fatherland.

C E R T I F I C A T E

W.D.C. No. \_\_\_\_\_

I.P.S. No. 650-A

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, Kameo Ishibashi, hereby certify that I am officially connected with the Japanese Government in the following capacity: Corresponding Secretary 1st Demobilization Bureau, and that as such official I have custody of the document hereto attached consisting of 8 pages, dated 13 October, 1942, and described as follows: Report from Chief of Staff of the Korean Army - 1942. I further certify that the attached record and document is an official document of the Japanese Government, and that it is part of the official archives and files of the following named ministry or department (specifying also the file number or citation, if any, or any other official designation of the regular location of the document in the archives or files): War Ministry.

Signed at Tokyo on this

/s/ Kameo Ishibashi  
Signature of Official

SEAL

3rd day of October, 1946.

Witness: /s/ Torakichi Nakamura

Corresponding Secretary  
Official Capacity

Statement of Official Procurement

I, 2nd Lt. Eric W. Fleisher, C-935000, hereby certify that I am associated with the General Headquarters of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, and that the above described document was obtained by me from the above signed official of the Japanese Government in the conduct of my official business.

Signed at Tokyo on this

/s/ Eric W. Fleisher, 2nd Lt. AUS  
NAME

3rd day of October, 1946.

Witness: /s/ Henry Shimajima

Investigation Division IPS  
Official Capacity

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650A-1

極秘

朝参密第二〇二九號

「英人俘虜收容ニ件ヲ一般民衆ノ反響」提出ノ件

昭和十七年十月十三日 朝鮮軍参謀長 井原洞次郎

陸軍次官 木村義太郎殿

首題ノ件別紙ノ通提出ス

提出先 参謀本部、陸軍省（各二部）

英人俘虜收容ニ件ヲ一般民衆ノ反響

一 概 観

局來半島ニ於ケル俘虜九八八名ノ到着ハ一般民衆  
特ニ朝鮮人ニ及セル影響極メテ大ニシテ俘虜輸送  
ノ道中ニ於ケル釜山、京城、仁川地方ノ難民人員  
モ鮮人約十二萬、内地人約五萬七千名ノ多數ヲ算  
シタリ  
俘虜ヲ運シ目前ニ見ル彼等ノ醜態ト恬然タル態度  
ヲ嘲笑シ斯カル國家觀念ニ乏シキ軍隊ガ皇軍ニ敗  
ル、ハ當然ナリト皇軍戰勝ノ事實ヲ再確認シ米英  
崇拜思想ヲ一掃セサルヘカラスト洩ス者或ハ皇國  
臣民タルノ幸福感ト大東亞戰爭完遂ノ決意ヲ洩ス  
者多ク特ニ朝鮮人ノ監視員ヲ運シテ直接大東亞戰

650A-2

争ニ参戦シツ、アルコトラ明確ニ認識スルニ至リ  
タルハ特記スヘク一線ニ米英暴行思想ノ一掃ト時  
局認識ノ透徹ヲ期スル上ニ於テ多大ノ效果ヲ收メ  
タルカ如ク其ノ主ナル言説左ノ如クニシテ將來停  
戦ノ希望其ノ他ヲ通シテ行ハレル宣傳效果ノ逐次  
滲透スルニ從ヒ其ノ成果益々大ナルヲ思ハシメ朝  
鮮統治ニ裨益スル處起メテ大ナルモノト認メラル

註 營分ノ間中央部ノ方針ニ從ヒ停戦ニ關スル  
新陳發表等ハ行ハス

## ニ 主ナル言説

### 一 倭人側

- ◎ 半島青年カ皇軍ノ一員トシテ停戦ノ監視ヲシ  
テキルノヲ見タトキ涙ガ出ル程癢シカツタ、  
之ヲ知ラナイ人々ニ「見ロ、半島ノ青年カ英  
國人停戦ヲ監視シテ居ルテハナイカ」ト大聲  
ヲ擧ケテ知ラシテヤリタイ衝動ニ驅ラレタ
- ◎ 主審役監領者ハ英米人ヨリ指導ヲ受ケタ關係  
上拜外思想カ抜ケ切ラナカツタガ停戦ヲ見タ  
時日本人ノ諺ト日本主審役ノ確立ヲセナケレ  
バナラヌト謂フ強イ示威ヲ受ケタ
- ◎ 戦争ニハ水ヲ呑ンデモ賤ケテハナラヌ停戦ヲ  
見テ日本人ノ有難サト諺リタリ自覺シタ
- ◎ 我等ヲ下等人トシテ罵倒ニシテ居タ英米人ヲ



650A-3

俘虜トシテ見ルノハ夢ノ様ダ半島人モ日本人

トシテノ誇リヲ感シ之テ氣持モ一變シタ

◎口笛ナンカ吹イテ平氣デキルノヲ見テモ國家  
觀念ニ乏シイ事ガ分ル、全クダラシガナイモ  
ノダ

◎了ノ力ノナイヒヨロヒヨロシタ様子ヲ見レハ  
日本軍ニ敗レルノハ無理モナイ

◎俘虜ヲ目前ニ見テ戦争ニハ必ス勝タネハナラ  
ヌト感シタ彼等ヲ嘲ル前ニ我々ハモット頑張  
ラネハナラヌ

◎今迄新聞ヤ映画デ皇軍ノ戦果ヲ見聞シナカラ  
多少ノ疑點ヲ抱イタガ俘虜ヲ見テ報道ノ嘘デ  
ナイコトカ解ツタ

◎日本人タルノ辛寵ヲ痛感セシムル爲朝僱人全  
部ニ俘虜ヲ見セテヤリタイ

◎奴等ノ爲ニ戦争カ長ヒクノタカラ死ヌ程働カ  
セテヤレ

◎俘虜ノ憐レナ有様ニ感ヘテ我々が呑氣ニ暮シ  
テ行ケルノモ全ク兵隊サンノお蔭ダ

## 2 内地人側

◎見世物ニナリ年ヲ平氣デ歩イテ居ル彼等ノ心  
情ハ憐レナモノダ恥ヲ知ラナイ國民程惨メナ  
モノハナイ

650A-4

- ◎俘虜ノ醜態ヲ見ルト日本國民タルノ有難サト  
戦争ニハ必ス勝タネハナラヌト云フ事ガ痛感  
セラレ物資不足位ニ不平ヲ云フ事ハ出来ヌ
- ◎彼等ノ態度ニハ矢張り傲慢ナ所ガ實ハレル  
我等ハ最勝國民トシテ毅然タル態度ヲ以テ彼  
等ニ對セネハナラヌ
- ◎朝鮮人ノ一部ニハ帝國ノ實力ト戦具ニ疑念ヲ  
抱クモノモアツタカ目前ニ悲惨ノ俘虜ヲ見テ  
ハ償ゼサルヲ得ナイテアロウ
- ◎戦争ニハ決シテ疑ケテハナラナイ、何處迄モ  
勝越カナケレハナラヌ我後迄頑強ルソ

### 3 中國人

- ◎日本ノ廣大ナル實力ヲ現實ニ見テ一層信厚ノ念  
ヲ深メタ、自分等ハ日本ノ御蔭デ安居樂業ス  
ルコトガ出来感謝ニ堪ヘナイ
- ◎見窄ラシイ俘虜ノ姿コソ没落シツ、アル英國  
ノ姿ダ、中國人ハ日本ヲ信厚シ一層新東亞ノ  
建設ニ努力シタイ

### 4 倭國人

- ◎俘虜ノ來鮮ハ同シ西洋人ノコト、テ恥カシイ  
コトダ、日本ノ實力ハ驚クノ外ハナイ
- ◎俘虜中ニ英本國兵カ居レハ恥カシイダロウ  
氣ノ毒ナコトダ

650A-5

5 獨逸人

◎英米ノ非人道振リニハ吾々モ非人道ヲ以テ報  
ヒテホタ。ウント虐待シテ賞ヒタイ

6 倭系露人

◎俘虜ハ口笛ヲ吹イテ香氣ナモノダ  
不名譽ト思ハヌラシイ、服装モ匪々テ貧弱ダ  
之ダカラ戦争ニ貢ケル

三 俘虜ノ言動

俘虜ハ何レモ誇耀シアルモノノ如ク一般ニ從順ニ  
シテ規律ヲ守リ日本軍ノ公正ナル取扱ニ感謝シ或  
ハ皇軍ノ優秀ナルヲ讃嘆シアリテ到着直後ニ行へ  
ル宣誓ハ全員之ヲ實施シ得タルモ其ノ反面尙驕慢  
ナル態度ヲ窺知セラレ我國ヲ劣等視シテ最後ノ勝  
利ハ我等英國ニアリト公言スル者、或ハ俘虜タル  
ハ祖國ニ對スル國民ノ名譽ナリト虚勢ヲ張ル者等  
アリテ何レモ英國ハ米國ノ支援ニ依リテ最後ノ勝  
利ヲ得ルト爲シ米國ノ物質力ヲ盲信シ末々皇軍大  
捷ノ事實ヲ知ラズ只管祖國ノ勝利ニ絶大ノ期待ヲ  
抱ケアル狀況ナリ

650A cert-1

證明書  
「ワシントン」文書局 第 號  
國際檢察部 第 號

典據及ビ公正ニ顯スル證明

余、石橋兼雄ハ余ガ下記ノ資格ニ於テ、即チ第一復員局文書課々員トシテ、日本政府ト公的關係ニ在ルモノナルコト、竝ニ該官吏トシテ余ガ茲ニ添附セラレタル、八頁ヨリ成ル、千九百四十二年ノ昭和十七年ノ十月十三日附、下記題名、即チ「英人俘虜收容ニ伴フ一般民衆ノ反響」提出ノ件ノ文書ノ保管ニ任ジ居ルコトヲ茲ニ證明ス。

余ハ更ニ添附ノ記録及ビ文書ガ日本政府ノ公文書ナルコト、竝ニ右ガ下記名稱ノ省又ハ部局ノ公式書類及ビ綴ノ一部ナルコトヲ證明ス。(若シアラバ綴番號又ハ引用、其ノ他公式書類又ハ綴ニ於ケル該文書ノ成規所在ノ公式名稱ヲモ特記スベシ)

陸軍省

千九百四十六年ノ昭和二十一年ノ十月三日

東京ニ於テ署名

當該官吏署名 石橋兼雄

右ノ者ノ公的資格 第一復員局文書課々員

證人 中村實吉

650A cert-2

公式入手ニ關スル證明

余、2d. LT. ERIC W. FLEISHER ハ、余ガ聯合國  
最高指揮官總司令部ニ關係アルモノナルコト、竝  
ニ上記題名ノ文書ハ余ガ公務上、日本陸軍ノ上記  
署名官吏ヨリ入手シタルモノナルコトヲ茲ニ證明  
ス。

千九百四十六年ノ昭和二十一年ノ十月三日

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